

collect our baggage and hasten down to the shore. The whole population of Easter Island seemed to have collected to watch our departure, and we found that most of the men intended to pay a visit to the ship for the purpose of selling the curious carved wooden figures they produce in extraordinary numbers.

We took off with us a consignment of twenty sheep and a pig, a very welcome addition to our stores, and a quantity of greenstuff and vegetables. So heavily was the island boat laden on which we at first proposed to embark, that a rock on which she was lying pierced her bottom, and we were compelled to wait for our ship's boats to come and fetch us off.

In the course of the afternoon all were got safely on board, and as darkness came upon us we steamed slowing out of the bay and were off on our homeward journey northward over the wide Pacific.

Our thanks to Thomas Christopher for supplying this gem

WMF Mission to Easter Island

At the request of the Consejo de Monumentos Nacionales from Chile and the Rapa Nui National Park (RNNP) on Easter Island, World Monuments Fund in collaboration with a grant from American Express, sponsored a mission to develop a monitoring system at the Ceremonial Center of Mata Ngarau in the archaeological site of 'Orongo, on Easter Island. The mission was carried out in collaboration with the National Park Service, through an agreement this institution has with the Chilean counterpart, CONAF. Blaine Cliver and Raul Vazquez, NPS, and Michael Schuller, Atkinson-Noland Associates, were in charge of the installation and surveying of reference points for the necessary monitoring measurements. The Mata Ngarau Ceremonial Center is located on the edge of the Rano Kau volcano, 300 m above sea level. The site was devoted to the bird-man cult and was only used in spring (during the month of September) while sea birds returned to nest on the three islets opposite this southwest tip of Easter Island. There are over 1,700 petroglyphs carved on the boulders of this site, some of which are perilously perched above the steep cliff. Concern about the possible movement of these boulders as the cliff slope erodes with time, prompted this mission. For monitoring purposes, minute pins were installed on the petroglyph-covered boulders to serve as measurement points in conjunction with benchmarks installed in the ground and on neighboring rock ledges. Measurements were taken with a laser distance-measuring theodolite as well as with a measuring tape, since this latter method will be used by the rangers of the RNNP to monitor the boulders regularly, i.e., twice a year, to detect any significant movement. If no movement is detected within three years, theodolite measurements should be re-taken at the site. In addition to measuring the stone positions, photographs taken by Dr. William Mulloy of the Mata Ngarau site in 1974 were replicated as closely as possible, to determine visually if there was any indication of movement over the past 27 years.

The mission also included, under the supervision of Dr A. Elena Charola and with the assistance of Antoinette Padgett, the training of park rangers in the measurement of carving depth of petroglyphs through the use of a profiling gauge. Although this low-tech approach is slow and labor intensive it can be easily



Measuring the petroglyph boulders at Mata Ngarau. Photograph by A. Elena Charola.

carried out by the rangers, and may prove useful in obtaining a more quantitative assessment of the deterioration rate of this rock art.

Finally, a three-day seminar on "Conservation of the Rapa Nui Archaeological Heritage" was carried out at the Museo Antropológico Padre Sebastián Englert (MAPSE). The seminar, addressed specifically to park rangers and tour guides, was co-organized with the RNNP and the Museum. An average of thirty participants attended these lectures each evening. Lecturers and topics included Marcos Rauch, Head of the RNNP, on site management issues; Francisco Torres, Head of MAPSE, on management and care of archaeological collections; Raul Vazquez, on the principles of the monitoring system installed at 'Orongo; Antoinette Padgett, on conservation problems of rock art and management of these sites; and, A. Elena Charola, on conservation issues of the archaeological heritage, i.e., monumental statues and petroglyphs, in light of the ethics and theory of conservation.

A. Elena Charola, Ph.D.

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MOAI SIGHTINGS

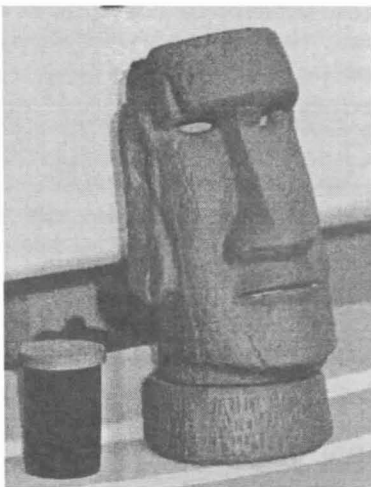
ARRIVING IN A DEAD HEAT, we received two notices about cast resin *moai*, to be used in your own gardens as "...a sacred space for contemplation, whether in a quiet corner or as a centerpiece in a spectacular planting." Betsy Hamel sent us pages from a catalog at the same time as we got notice from Bill Liller in Chile (via email). Thanks guys. These heads/busts of scowling *moai* are two feet high and cost \$98.95 each. The ad states that they are replicas [sic] of originals dating from "380 A.D." The description: "Replicate the mystical presence of Easter Island in your own garden! Assumed to be depictions of deceased chiefs, heroes or gods, the giant statues on Easter Island are some of the world's most intriguing, mysterious and photographed archaeological artifacts."

The resin casting is finished to look like rough chiseled stone, but the sharply protruding brow ridges more resemble the visor on a baseball cap. See at: www.DesignToscano.com

COCKTAIL SWIZZLESTICKS with little navy-blue moai heads on them arrived at our door, thanks to Barbara and Marks Hinton. Information for the plastic stirrers, offered by Accoutrements, "Outfitters for Popular Culture" (Made in China), can be found at www.accoutrements.com. Another color might well have been considered by the manufacturer, although navy beats orange, turquoise and lime green (see below).

URBAN OUTFITTERS, Oregon, has sets of tacky tiki glasses (one of which resembles a moai) for just \$12. Thanks to Dawn Wright of Corvallis who reported them. Get 'em while they're hot at: urbn.com

A FULL-PAGE SPREAD FROM the *Boston Globe* (July 1, 2001) has a drawing of the seven statues at Akivi to illustrate a page of letters/complaints about health care options in the US. The moai are shown wearing typical medical reflectors on their heads. Presumably the statues refer to either hardhearted doctors or the type of medical care one can expect from a statue. Thanks to Kathy Cleghorn for this item.



A MOAI INCENSE BURNER in a bright turquoise color was sent in by Jenny Gardham of San Diego. The smoke curls and snakes out of the ears, mouth and slitty eyes. The box it comes in has pictures of moai from Rano Raraku and other sites on the island – only the statues are colored bright orange, turquoise and (yuck) lime green.

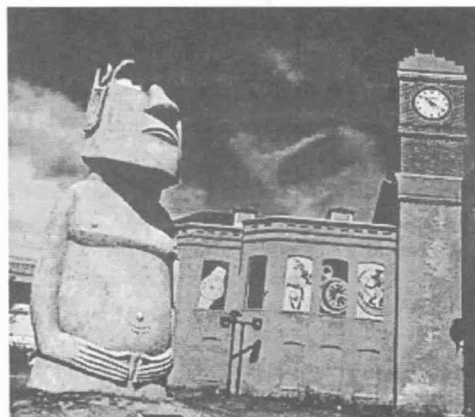


A SIGN THAT STANDS IN FRONT of the Tiki Motel in Tucson, Arizona, shows a Nixon-like moai head with liver-lips and an odd protrusion coming from it. Local lore indicates the rooms rent 'by the hour'. How far our beloved statues have fallen! ☹️

Thanks to Hilary Scothorn who sent in the photo.



THE PRIZE FOR FINDING FAR-FLUNG IMAGES of moai has to go this time to long-time Rapanuiphile Peter Korning, who spotted a bottle of Chilean wine with moai on the label...in a bar in Hanoi, Vietnam (of all places). Peter wrote: "While dining at the French Press Club, I spotted a wine bottle with our beloved moai on it. The label contains a drawing of several statues standing on the quarry slopes. Feeling a bit homesick, I immediately purchased a bottle. It turns out to be from a Chilean vineyard, Miguel Torres "Maquehau," and is a very decent chardonnay. According to the producer, the wine has a nose consisting of apple, hazelnut, toasted bread and vanilla, while the palate is described a 'meaty and dense.' Who knows? Maybe in time this will become a collector's item to rival the notorious moai Pisco bottle."



WATERBURY, CT – Timex Corporation has announced the opening of its new museum, Timexpo, in Waterbury CT, just off route I84 at the Brass Mill Center Mall. Housed in a late 19th century building and spread over three floors, this unique museum traces the history of Timex and its predecessors dating back to the 1850s. A winding Time Tunnel takes you back in time to an archaeology exhibit based on the theories of Thor Heyerdahl, looking at possible ancient voyages. There is an exhibit on the mound cultures of North America. Since the mysteries of Easter Island are one of the exhibit topics, a 40-foot high replica of an Easter Island statue stands guard outside the building, visible from the highway. The museum's replica is not made of heavy stone like the originals, but rather is constructed

of a stone-looking polymer shell with a reinforced steel bar skeleton. In the museum are computer inter-actives and lots of video clips, ranging from the famous Timex "torture test" TV commercials to Thor Heyerdahl's Oscar-winning 1947 documentary *Kon-Tiki*. Timexpo also includes a resource center (computer activities, books etc), and a gift store. Timexpo Museum is located in the Brass Mill Commons Mall in Waterbury.

IN 1982, ON THE OCCASION OF THE WORLD SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP, Anthony Pujador y Estany paired up Easter Island with Olot, a Catalan city in Spain. On this occasion a Rapanui sculptor created a *moai* that was installed on "Easter Island Plaza" near the Avenida de Chile. In September 2000, Olot was host to a meeting of vulcanologists, and one of the attendees was the mayor of Easter Island, Petero Edmunds. He was invited by the local authorities to pay homage to the man who had paired up Olot and Easter Island in 1982. Mayor Edmunds suggested that the *moai* be moved to a park for it was not intended to be in traffic and subjected to the noise of cars. In May 2001, my wife Yvette and I accepted the invitation from the parents of Tony Pujador to visit the park where the statue is to be located. The authorities of the city of Olot confirmed that the statue would be moved within the next few months to a tranquil park in the city where the spirit of the *moai* can stand in peace. The photo shows me with the statue and it is perhaps the last time that readers of RNJ will see the statue in its current surroundings. We named the *moai* "Adam" because his maker forgot to sculpt him a navel! We hope that in the coming months we can provide photos of the new setting for the *moai* in Garoxa Park.



François Dederen

WHAT'S NEW IN THE PACIFIC

PITCAIRN ISLAND

PITCAIRN'S LONG ISOLATION is ending. Its population of 42, which now has contact with the outside world only via a passing ship, occasional mail, and one satellite telephone, voted to allow a New Zealand construction consortium to turn it – along with Oeno (one of the Pitcairn islands) – into tourist destinations. Two runways will be constructed, plus a 4-star hotel, and two lodges. Pitcairn will have its own airline. Plans are for one airport on Pitcairn and one on Oeno (Editor's note: see chapters in *Te Moana Nui* for more on Pitcairn and Oeno).

Oeno, which is one of the world's last undisturbed coral atolls, will have a 1200 meter long runway and a four-star hotel with 30 beds. Two airplanes will connect it to Tahiti and New Zealand. Tourists will be attracted by its pristine beaches and lagoon, scuba diving, and opportunities to visit Henderson, a UNESCO world heritage site and bird sanctuary. Pitcairn itself

will have a runway and two upscale guest lodges. The harbor at Bounty Bay will be changed to make it safer for landings and there is to be a small fishery with a processing plant. Roads will be improved, and sewage and water systems installed.

A referendum in March resulted in a vote favorable of the plan: 22 adults voted yes; six voted no. Most Pitcairners worry that their community will become nonviable unless there are sufficient changes that will tend to keep up the population and keep their young people on the island. Youngsters now go to New Zealand around age 16, and few of them return. The thinking is that the development plans and new opportunities will bring them back to the island.

But environmentalists warn that development might devastate the plant and animal communities, as well as the pristine lagoon on Oeno.

Anthony Browne, *The Guardian Weekly*, 164(15):23.

IN MARCH, PITCAIRNERS WERE ALERTED that an incoming ship, the *Queensland Star*, on its way to New Zealand, had discovered a large swarm of killer bees on board. They had found their way into a refrigeration unit on a container. Three Pitcairn "Bee Exterminators" responded quickly and when the ship reached New Zealand, all they found were piles of dead bees. By coincidence, two weeks later James Driscoll arrived on contract from SPC Suva to check on the island's honey bee industry. While on Pitcairn, Driscoll completed a disease survey of the honey bees, conducted classes, and assisted islanders with their bee keeping. He also conducted a fruit fly survey.

Pitcairn Miscellany, Vol. 44(3) March 2001

TAHITI

JAIL SENTENCES IMPOSED on three men involved in the anti-nuclear riots in Pape'ete in 1995 have been upheld by a French court of appeal. The court also upheld the previous sentences of two former members of the A Tia I Mau (standing and forward) union, who were also involved in the riots. The pro-independence political party vowed to continue the political fight.

Pacific News Bulletin, Vol. 16(6), June 2001

THE AUSTRALS

SOLDIERS OF THE FRENCH ARMY engaged in a mock "intervention exercise" in the Australs last May. This exercise simulated army intervention and was intended to test the ability of the French army to operate in rugged terrain. The operation involved 550 soldiers, three navy vessels and 7 aircraft.

Pacific News Bulletin, Vol. 16(6), June 2001

COOK ISLANDS

THE COOK ISLANDS WILL NEVER be independent from New Zealand, according to Deputy Prime Minister Norman George. His comments were made during a visit to Rarotonga by New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark. In response to talks of sovereignty for the Cooks, New Zealand government officials in Rarotonga have made New Zealand's position clear: declare independence and lose citizenship rights. George said, "We are very proud of our New Zealand citizenship and nobody wants to part with that."

Pacific News Bulletin, Vol. 16(6), June 2001

NAURU, KIRIBATI AND TONGA

THE PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONS OF NAURU, KIRIBATI AND TONGA recently joined the United Nations. All three are in imminent danger of disappearing due to climate change and the rise of water levels. Protective reefs are dying, and storms are becoming more frequent and serious. Some islands already have been submerged, fresh water supplies infiltrated by salt water, and crops destroyed. The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) joined for a special session at the UN to examine the state of the world's smallest and most vulnerable nations. The report noted that small islands are the "canaries in the coal mines" when it comes to environmental issues. The canaries are dying. But there is no where to run.

Pacific News Bulletin, Vol. 16(5) 2001

FIJI

SCIENTISTS STUDIED THE LOMAIVITI AND KADAVU WATERS in April and May and declared that coral reefs in Fiji were severely impacted by coral bleaching during the past year. Coral reefs were not only affected by warming surface temperatures, but also by El Niño conditions. Reef degradation is also caused by human activities such as over-fishing and destructive fishing practices. Some sort of protection is needed for outer barrier reefs, plus a broader approach to marine conservation including temporary closures, reseeding areas, management plans and long-term monitoring.

Oceanic Waves, 2001. V.3(1)

ANOTHER STUDY ON FIJI, revealed that some species of Fijian bats could be facing extinction. Dr Jorge Palmeirim of the University of Lisbon, Portugal, spent five months studying the bats in Fiji. Six different species exist in the islands, but most are declining due to human interventions, including feral cats and deforestation. Of particular concern is the near-extinction of the Fiji Monkey Face bat, the entire population of which exists only on Fiji's Taveuni Island. Dr Palmeirim stated that survival of the species is dependent upon preservation of the population on that island.

University of the South Pacific, Suva. Vol. 1(1):2001.

RECENT RESEARCH BY TWO CHEMISTRY PROFESSORS at the University of the South Pacific, Suva, has found that Kavalactones (the active ingredient thought to be exclusive to the kava or Yaqona plant), also has been found in ginger (*Zingiberaceae*) plant families. This was unexpected as these are two different plant families. The significance is that there is now a second source of Kavalactones, the relaxing effect of which has led to the development of a range of anti-anxiety tablets, now sold around the world. The kava plant usually takes at least five years to mature and is of considerable value to South Pacific communities where it is a drink of historical and social significance. In comparison, ginger is a fast growing plant, easy to cultivate.

University of the South Pacific, Suva. Vol. 1(3), 2001

OTHER USP SCIENTISTS ARE STUDYING the "wonder drug" *noni*. The *noni* plant (*morinda citrifolia*) grows extensively throughout the Pacific. In Samoa and Tonga, it is called *nonu*; in Rarotonga it is *nono*.

Noni is either taken by itself or mixed with other natural herbs. Researchers are not yet clear which of the ingredients in *noni* juice are responsible for its medicinal properties because so little research has been conducted on this fruit. Despite this, *noni* juice is popular in the United States as a health drink and as an alternative medicine for a wide range of ailments from diabetes and high blood pressure to cancer. Patients with a variety of ailments have shown improvement when prescribed *noni* juice. The Cook Islands, Fiji, Tahiti, and Tonga are involved in the commercial production of *noni* juice for export to Australia, New Zealand, and the United States. In Australia, a liter costs \$80.

University of the South Pacific, Vol. 1(9), 2001

THE STUDY OF GLOBAL WARMING at the University of the South Pacific has been given a boost by the receipt of modern atmospheric gas measuring equipment. This equipment will allow for measuring trace greenhouse gases, including carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and non-methane hydrocarbons. These studies are part of a wider project involving observations in New Zealand and Antarctica.

University of the South Pacific, Vol. 1(11), 2001

TUVALU

INTERNET CASH IS FLOWING into this tiny country located midway between Hawai'i and Australia. The people who live on Tuvalu's 16 square miles of land have received nearly \$20 million from the .tv Corporation, an Internet company based in Los Angeles. Tuvalu is expected to receive at least \$4 million a year (½ its gross domestic product) for 12 years. In exchange, the .tv Corporation gains Tuvalu's .tv Internet domain. Every nation has its country code domain extension (the US has .us; Chile has .cl, etc.). Tuvalu's is .tv, a desired domain that has been used to sell more than 200,000 internet addresses. This boon to the economy is offset by the fact that Tuvalu is only 15 feet above sea level, and the waters are rising.

NY Times, 16 July 2001

TOURISM AND SMALL ISLANDS

TOURISM IS ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING INDUSTRIES. In 1950, 2.5 million people traveled abroad; in 1999, it was 670 million. By 2020, it is estimated that some 1.6 billion people will travel each year. According to Esther Addley in the *Guardian Weekly*, water is the main concern. Aquifers and springs are being drained faster than they can be replenished and some are being polluted. Although the author cites islands such as Ibiza and Barbados, the problem also applies to Pacific islands. Tourists demand swimming pools, showers, and golf courses: however one 18-hole golf course in dry country can consume as much water as a town of 10,000 inhabitants. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that in 55 days, 100 tourists use enough water to grow rice to feed 100 villages for 15 years. Attitudes are changing in some places where tourist destinations now impose a "head tax" to help address environmental problems. [This is in effect for the Galapagos, but with mixed results. The money collected tends to disappear rather than to be applied directly to tourist impacts.]

The Guardian Weekly for May 31-June 6, 2001:22.

MORUROA ATOLL, FRENCH POLYNESIA

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT will seek an explanation from France over reports that the Moruroa nuclear test site is deteriorating at that point where the nuclear tests weakened the atoll formation. Some of the Green Party MPs in Paris have been lobbying to have the site declared a nuclear installation so it would come under French law covering the monitoring of radioactive wastes. There are some five kilos of plutonium dispersed in the sediments of Moruroa lagoon.

Pacific News Bulletin, Vol. 16(4) 2001

HAWAI'I

OAHU'S MAKUA VALLEY, said to be a sacred place as the mythic birthplace of the Hawaiian people, is the locale where the US Army plans to resume combat training. This valley previously was used by troops in training for the firing of rifles, mortars, and howitzers. However, past army exercises started wildfires and affected endangered species. The issue has upset locals, who claim that the valley floor is full of archaeological ruins, including temples.

HAWAI'I ISLAND PROJECT. In May, Dr Peter Mills and several of his students at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo began surface mapping the coastal terrace of Laupahoehoe Nui, a remote *ahupua'a* (ancient land division) in the Hamakua district. In addition to documenting extensive wetland agricultural terraces, domestic sites and coastal trail systems, the team also identified portions of an early nineteenth century village buried in an 1822 rockslide (originally recorded by the Rev. William Ellis in 1823). In June and July, Mills ran an archaeological field school at Keanakolu near the 6,000 ft. elevation mark in the North Hilo District on the slopes of Mauna Kea. The largely undisturbed cave complex was mapped (replete with dozens of intact hearths), and an early historical house and cistern were located nearby, believed to be the home of an early bullock hunter (Ned Gurney), who gained notoriety in the 1830s when he was held suspect in the death of a famous botanist, David Douglass.

WHAT'S NEW IN HANGAROA

WEATHER ON EASTER ISLAND THIS LAST WINTER was amazing. Not only heavy rains, thunder and lightning, and high winds, but HAIL the size of large marbles pelted the island. This was only the second time in 24 years that hail was recorded.

THE DIRECTOR OF THE ISLAND HOSPITAL, Cristián Pérez Nuñez reported that an increase in the mortality rate on the island has alarmed the population. He noted that until 1999 the mortality rate was lower than the rates indicated for other regions of Chile. But he insisted that there was no need for alarm because, although higher than last year, the rate was typical for that on the continent where the mortality rate is currently 7 for every thousand inhabitants. Considering that the island has a population of 3500-4000, between 25 and 28 deaths per year are to be expected. The deceased have been diagnosed with meningitis, terminal cancers, advanced age, etc. The Hanga Roa hospital has 18 beds and 3 doctors, 3 nurses and matrons [midwives], plus lab technicians, a veterinarian and "others".

El Mercurio de Valparaíso, 24 July 2000

AT THE END OF APRIL, AN ITEM APPEARED in *El Mercurio de Valparaíso*, touting a new airline that will bring more tourists to Easter Island. This airline, calling itself "Hamburg Rapa Nui" claimed that it would begin flights carrying 220 passengers in August of this year (by the end of August, the dates were pushed ahead to January). Joaquín Hannig, president of the air company that is said to be associated with a "prestigious German company", Hamburg International, confirmed that the project will answer not only the "expectations of the development of global tourism...but also will favor the islanders by carrying cargo from Santiago." The planes were said to be Boeing 757-200s with 250 seats, experienced crews, and with the symbol of a *moai* on the tail of the plane. The planes will have their own hangar on the island. The projected plans have the cooperation of the government and the mayor's office on Rapa Nui.

Representatives of the company came to the island to convince the Rapanui that they need this airline, and stated that they will bring flights from Mexico and the Caribbean. It was explained that the Rapanui may buy shares up to 20% of the business. However, when queried as to their assets, it came out that the planes are leased and the company is looking for venture capital. Most of these details went over the heads of the local islanders attending the meetings, who thought only of getting rich and having more tourists. A few voiced their concerns about the impact of more tourists, how to prevent damage to the sites, what will be the ecological impacts, etc. Other questions concerned the legal consequences, if this would involve money laundering, tax evasion, etc. Our current correspondent on Rapa Nui, Grant McCall, said 'not to worry', their home office is in Havana, and that should tell us something!

Rapanui islander, Alberto Hotus, stated on local TV that islanders have to buy shares in the amount of US\$100 in order to have their "own" airplanes. As of press time, 400 islanders took the bait and subscribed in an office installed to sell the shares. On August 19th, local TV carried another presentation about the airline. The airline will change its name from Hamburg Chile to Hamburg Pacific, but flights coming to Easter Island would be called "Hamburg Rapa Nui". The Santiago to Rapa Nui leg is to begin in January 2002, and a new route from Miami-Quito-Rapa Nui will begin in April 2002. Humbug Airlines?

IN THE JULY 8TH AND 9TH ISSUES of *El Mercurio de Valparaíso*, the *intendente* of the Quinta Region announced that some US\$ 2.65 million will be spent for projects on Easter Island. The most important is the money for the new school (US\$ 1.64 million) to be constructed on the site of the old leper station. It will accommodate grades 7 through 12. Twelve classrooms are planned, plus labs, swimming pool and Yes! even a library. Work starts this year and is supposed to be done by the end of next year. In September water sources will be explored, a tank installed, and the road to the site will be upgraded.

ROAD PAVING: the *intendente* announced that there is money (US\$844,000) for the paving of 25 kilometers of roads, 18 km of which is "along the coast" (which one not indicated). There is to be a new firehouse (US\$ 176,000), funding of a program of "local culture" (US\$ 51,000) and, finally, US\$ 154,000 for

heavy machinery. And the *intendente* promised to renew studies for construction of a pier "that would serve both fishermen and medium-sized ships."

PAVING AND REPAIR OF THE MAIN ROADS in town continues, despite the lack of formal support from the mainland. Currently, the road to the Hangaroa Hotel (Avenida Pont) as well as the road to the Museum (Atamu Tekena) are being paved.

FOR SOME TIME NOW, MANY ISLANDERS and visitors have been concerned about small shacks and houses that have been springing up around the island, many directly on archaeological sites and within the boundaries of the National Park. These are locally known as *paepae*, "little houses" without electricity or plumbing. One is built directly ON an *ahu* platform, near Tahai, and another was built in clear view of Tongariki's great *ahu* (see RNJ 14(4):125). The island government and the Consejo de Desarrollo has moved to eliminate those built on the property of others. The Governor, Don Enrique Pakarati, pointed out at meetings that have been held since last November that houses built close to Vaihu had to be removed. Finally, bulldozers rolled over them and left only rubble. In response to protests, the Governor pointed out that building on land belonging to others and without authorization was an act of violence, violating the law. Finally the Consejo de Desarrollo decided to take action. More illegal *paepae* will be destroyed. Our congratulations to Governor Pakarati for his courage in the face of what is surely a controversial local issue.

HEADLINES IN *EL MERCURIO de Valparaíso* for August 12th, read: "SOS from Isla de Pascua", and, "Severe Deterioration of the Patrimony of Humanity". The article (byline, Margarita Pecora B.) claims that the Government has been diverting promised funds, there has been damage to the archaeological sites, and claims are made that the ceremonial altars are not protected. This situation includes the diverting of budgeted funds and the lack of a policy for managing the conservation of archaeological sites. The article states that, in spite of the efforts realized by archaeologists and the assistance of individuals and institutions to maintain the monuments, the heritage is deteriorating. UNESCO declared the island as a Patrimony of Humanity, but more and more often one sees horses grazing on the ceremonial platforms (*ahu*)...or cows scratching themselves against the stone giants. Tourists walk without taking care, not knowing that underneath there might be images on a valuable petroglyph. Petroglyphs are also submitted to re-marking using sharp instruments, chalk and other things in order to improve the photos. In another instance, a "smile" was scratched onto the face of the *moai* located behind Vinapu. And human bones have been taken from caves and semipyramidal *ahu*. In the market one can buy original stone and obsidian tools and weapons, and taxi drivers have been spotted giving tourists original artifacts in order to earn some extra money. Tourists trample on boat house foundations. None of the 25,000 archaeological sites have ropes or fences or any demarcation or barrier to impede access. There are only four sites that have park guards, and they are only there for limited hours. People still lament the destruction of stone houses when the airport runway and later the east coast shore

road were built. And of course there are frequent rains and coastal winds that accelerate the damage.

UNESCO itself has voiced concern over the deterioration of Rapa Nui's heritage. The head of the Administration of UNESCO for Latin America, Vicente Vidal, admitted that he was worried: "Because I have visited these sites and observed with my own eyes what is happening and have talked with the Island's mayor. It really is lamentable." UNESCO has tried many times to find a harmonic solution and the money to preserve the island's monuments. Mayor Petero Edmunds stated that, if given the money, the islanders would do the conserving themselves because they want to save their patrimony. The Chilean government administers the money, but the islanders believe the money should be spent where needed and not spent on archaeological investigations by some university. Islanders still lament the destruction of stone houses when the airport runway was built. More than five years ago, the Consejo de Monumentos Nacionales argued that there should be a permanent effort to protect the sites.

TOURISM THIS YEAR IS NOT EXACTLY BOOMING, but keeping up. LanChile offered cheap promotions from Chile, but these customers go to the Hotel Hangaroa for the most part, thus the money goes off-island, rather than to the Rapanui hotel owners. So while there has been more tourists than usual, there is less money.

AN OUTBREAK OF DENGUE FEVER on Easter Island has been reported on Chilean TV. Efforts to eradicate the mosquito that carries this vector have been on-going for some time. The offending mosquito arrived from Tahiti a few years ago.

MEDICAL AIRLIFT SUSPENSION AND RESUMPTION. *El Mercurio de Valparaíso* (June 6, 2001) noted that, due to unkind remarks made by Mayor Petero Edmunds, FACH (*Fuerza Aerea de Chile*) suspended a planned medical operation that would have brought specialists to treat island residents. FACH was stung by comments made by Mayor Edmunds who claimed that the flights were carrying persons with criminal records. A spokesman for FACH claimed that such accusations were unjust, and suspended the planned medical venture in a snit. The spokesman stated that when there is space on a plane, it is the government that makes the decision as to whom can fill it.

The director of the island hospital, Cristián Pérez Nuñez, reported that the suspension did not put the health of the population at risk, but it did indeed produce "dissatisfaction". He explained that that the expected trip generated over-expectations in the population, and now they were frustrated because no official explanation was given for the suspension of the aid that FACH offers every May.

The Consejo de Ancianos #2 consequently met with the FACH commander-in-chief, Patricio Rios, but no plans were made for the future because it requires time to get together the 90 medical personnel who participate.

The island Governor, Enrique Pakarati, said that children and old people were anxiously waiting the arrival of the FACH medical mission and noted that some 500 persons would not receive the planned specialized medical attention. He went on to

say that the mayor's opinion was not that of the islanders, and that FACH had always been irreproachable: in fact, last April 2 he had written to the head of the FACH's Department of Communications to thank them for their social work and for carrying Rapanui students to and from the island. And he wrote the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Health asking them to intercede in the conflict.

Governor Pakarati said that islanders were awaiting the attention of orthodontists, gynecologists, and other specialists. The hospital director said that they were never officially informed of the cancellation.

On July 22 it was announced that the crisis had been averted, and the air force medical operation began on Rapa Nui. A total of 85 hospital professionals arrived to provide medical attention. Governor Pakarati, said "the community had awaited anxiously" and the chief of the Air Force communications, Colonel Hugo Tilly, added that they brought the medical team "with pleasure". During the week-long visit to the island, the professionals attended to a large number of island patients in 14 medical specialties including surgery for adults and children, ophthalmology, gynecology, preventive medical kinesiotherapy, and dentistry. They brought with them modern technology such as laparoscopes and endoscopes to use in different surgical procedures, ophthalmology equipment and bone densitometry, a technology that still is not available in many parts of the continent. Surgery was scheduled for patients with problems with the digestive system, urology, gynecology, dental and others.

El Mercurio de Valparaíso, July 22, 2001

EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO TRY AND RECOVER A SUNKEN MOAI that lies in the bay off Hangaroa. Michel Garcia, a scuba specialist who has lived on Rapa Nui for 23 years and who runs a diving center, "Orca", will be working in conjunction with the Oxcean company from Puerto Montt, which has the equipment to raise this object.

The *moai* fell into the sea in April 1957 while being loaded aboard the navel cargo ship, *Pinto*. It lies 300 meters down, off the bay at Hanga Piko.

Garcia noted that he has the ship's logbook and has talked with various witnesses and studied the existing documents about the statue's loss. He has also recorded some ten ships, or fragments of ships, on the ocean bottom around Easter Island. One is the Apolline Emilie that sunk in 1896, some 100 meters from the coast off Hangaroa. Most of the ships were of wood, thus strong currents have carried off most of the evidence. The ship *Falcon* sunk in 15 meters of water around the end of the 19th century and four huge anchors, bronze bells, and kitchen utensils have been found.

El Mercurio de Valparaíso, 26 August, 2001.

REPORT FROM THE FIELD

IN JULY, CHARLIE LOVE and his crew were well into excavation and investigation of the ancient *moai* roadways. They were assisted with linguistic as well as direct help from a Rapanui who began work for the Vaitea farm in the early 1940s. What the excavations have revealed, perhaps new to the archaeological record, are the following:

1. Several root molds of large trees, with roots 15 to 20 cm

in diameter were uncovered. The roots twist and radiate out from a central point, and their sizes are suggestive of trunks 30 to 50 cm in diameter.

2. Polynesian? rodent holes – small holes about 2 to 4 cm in diameter have been found, along with parts of two rat skulls in them, plus one within a root mold.

3. The roadbeds seem half-worn into the ground surface, and only in places appear to be cut into the bedrock. The fill sections are a complete mix. While one cannot see deliberate fill debris, the surfaces are definitely higher than the surrounding topography. A deep trench (2 m deep) was cut across a 12 m transect and it will provide a true cross section of the road.

4. Love has walked out most of the roads as they are known, mapped them, and found a great many different aspects to them. Some of them are extremely hard to trace. The crew completed an instrument survey before the end of the field season. The inland road is indeed split into two as shown in Routledge's map, but she apparently did not know why. On the divided side of the split, two statues are headed towards different *ahu*. These are not on the main road. A Rapanui who worked the Vaitea farm since the early 40s said the odd road heading north was one of the old cross-island travel roads, implying that it was not necessarily a *moai* road. The *moai* road going north from the split cannot be traced beyond Vaitea, and there are some curious circumstances surrounding its location.

EDUCATION ON RAPA NUI HAS COME TO ATTENTION with the plans for a new high school being displayed in Hangaroa. The current island school, Liceo Lorenzo Baeza Vega, (named for a teacher who drowned in 1955 while trying to save some children, see RNJ 5(1):8-9) is seriously stressed by the lack of space and large number of students. The school now houses all grades from kindergarten through high school. Located at the downtown corner of Te Pito te Henua and Atamu Tekena, it is right in the center of the village. When the new high school is completed (to be built north of the village, at the site of the old leper sanatorium), the village school will have a much better ratio of children to available classroom and playground space.

As for the new school to be built north of town, a representative of the Chilean education ministry announced that school construction will begin in September. UNESCO is planning an "*aldea educativa*", which includes the new school, but also much more: it is a kind of "universal university" where people from all over the world can come to study, and where not only children are integrated, but the *koros* and *nuas* can also teach their grandchildren the old ways. Plans include an egg-shaped amphitheater, plus meeting places.

THE PROBLEM OF LANGUAGE EXTINCTION

WORLDWATCH INSTITUTE, a private organization that monitors global trends, claims that among the world's 6,800 languages, half to 90% could be extinct by the end of the century. Half of all languages are spoken by fewer than 2,500 people each. Languages need at least 100,000 speakers to pass from generation to generation, according to UNESCO [www.worldwatch.org]. With this in mind, the following item assumes more than passing notice. Efforts to keep the Rapanui language alive are being made on the island.

IMMERSION CLASSES

IN PAST YEARS, IT WAS THE CUSTOM to limit students and teachers to using only Spanish in the classrooms, under the assumption that it helped the Rapanui children to integrate more easily into the Chilean state. Not only were children forbidden to speak Rapanui, but teachers instructed the parents to not use it at home. It is only in recent years that the Rapanui language has been taught in the school. Times change, and we are happy to report on a new development in teaching.

Some of the Rapanui schoolteachers who had visited and observed immersion schools in New Zealand, Hawai'i, and Europe strongly urged that one kindergarten group be designated as a Rapa Nui immersion kindergarten. Several years ago, the mayor and school administration consented to permit one of the three kindergarten groups to be a "Rapa Nui kindergarten". However, the school administration preferred to call the orientation of the kindergarten "intercultural, bilingual." As a result, this kindergarten group has not been limited to only Rapa Nui children, there is no pre-selection of the students, and too much Spanish is spoken in the classroom. Instead of being taught in Rapanui, the children may be taught A LITTLE BIT of Rapanui (words, phrases, songs). This is an inadequate approach and will have little or no lasting effect on the re-vernacularization of island children.

As for the elementary grades, near the end of the 1997 school year, a new linguistic assessment of the island's school children was made. All but three of the 653 children in K-7 were tested for comprehension and production competence in Rapanui. In response to the urging of several of the Rapanui teachers, last year (2000) the school administration permitted a Rapanui 1st Grade class. Again, an intercultural, bilingual orientation was prescribed, but that a Rapanui First Grade could be formed at all, was a major advance! The class was team-taught by Virginia Haoa and Carolina Tuki. They taught all subjects in Rapanui rather than bilingually and discouraged the use of Spanish in the classroom. Over the course of the year, the students not only became more proficient in Rapanui, their general learning of other subjects was unhindered. Both the children and their parents were happy with the results.

Now, in the current 2001 school year, Virginia Haoa continues with the same group of students in a Rapanui Second Grade, assisted by a new aide and trainee, Victoria Hereveri. Meanwhile, Carolina Tuki is teaching a new First Grade group, assisted by Alicia Teao. In both classrooms, the teachers insist on the use of Rapanui only.

As for Preschool, the principal mover in an effort to create an Immersion Preschool is island school teacher Hilaria Tuki, who presented a proposal to the local authorities more than three years ago. The Rapa Nui Language Nest was to have begun last school year, but promised assistance for it did not materialize. This year (2001) interested parents helped Hilaria to get things rolling again. The immersion preschool effort was inaugurated on April 5th, and the first few weeks of work with the 6 or 7 students were encouraging. Unfortunately, however, early in the school year, Hilaria had to request a leave of absence on account of personal family needs. It is hoped that she will be able to return to work soon. Without her, the Language Nest Rapa Nui will not happen.

The Easter Island Foundation and the Rapa Nui Journal congratulate the governor, the mayor, school administration, and Rapa Nui teachers for their advanced thinking, and hope that they will continue to support these worthwhile efforts to save the Rapanui language from extinction.

THE MUNICIPALITY HAS AGREED to support a third evening of local television programming in Hangaroa. Presently, on Saturday and Sunday evenings, there is local programming on Channel 13 from 21.00 or so onwards. Cultural and educational programming is on Saturday, along with news of the week, interviews, and a slot about the mosquito campaign, and ending with a movie on Sunday evening. A Friday night "youth program" has been announced, commencing on Friday 14 September from 19.00 hours.

THERE WERE THREE RAPANUI LIVING IN NEW YORK at the time of the terrorist attack. All of them are safe although one had a very close call. Luisa Karina Corrales Pate, who teaches in New York, was scheduled that Tuesday morning to visit the top of the World Trade Center with her class. But she forgot some papers and went back to get them. When she returned, the planes had already crashed. The tragic events in New York and Washington managed to reach all the way to little Rapa Nui.

A NEW RAPAMYSTERY? A drug known as rapamycin is back in the news. This drug, originally derived from a compound found nearly three decades ago in a soil sample from Easter Island, has been found to solve a problem that may follow angioplasty: the tendency of coronary arteries to plug up again. An antibiotic, rapamycin was found to be not particularly effective. But then it was developed into a potent anti-rejection drug for kidney transplant patients. Now, used to coat stents, it blocks the growth of scar tissue by interrupting the body's natural release of immune-system cells. Few realize that most natural antibiotics in use today are produced by soil bacteria. A pinch of soil may contain close to 1 billion individual living organisms, and as many as 10,000 distinct species of microbes, many unnamed and not understood.

The Wall Street Journal 5 September, 2001.

MAYOR PETERO EDMUNDS HAS BEEN QUITE OUTSPOKEN about the poor treatment meted out by various Chilean government authorities, including President Lagos. Edmunds' comments, which have been aired on Chilean national television and published in the press, caused a lot of commotion and are condensed below. Under the title, "The Island Has Many Enemies in the Government" the article, which appeared in *El Mercurio de Santiago* for July 8, 2001, included background on Edmunds. It began by noting that he has English ancestry from two grandfathers; studied business administration in the United States; and paid his own way by doing a variety of jobs from collecting garbage to washing dishes. Edmunds, calling it "The American Dream" stated that he had earned up to US\$130,000 a year, had a Ferrari, a BMW, a racing car, and bought some property. Edmunds traveled all over the world and, with his last \$2000, bought a ticket home. He is married to his second wife, Katherine Lacord, and has two daughters. The interview noted that

Edmunds has a peculiar political history: he first was a socialist, then he joined the Central Party to run for mayor, and then he became a Christian Democrat. The interview, portions of which appear below, took the form of questions and answers:

Q. Are you Chilean or Rapanui?

A. Rapanui. Absolutely!

Q. Do the islanders feel like they're Chileans?

A. They feel like Rapanui. Policarpo Toro deceived the people.

Q. Was it wrong that Chile annexed the island?

A. Categorically no. If we had been taken over by the Americans, French, Germans or Brits, today there would be nothing natural, only skyscrapers, resorts, dirty water and maybe a fish factory.

Q. Would you like to be an independent state?

A. We consider ourselves a nation inside the State of Chile. We would like to be autonomous, not like a country but like a territory of Chile, not as a colony as we consider ourselves now. For example, they make laws in Santiago without consulting us. Before we had friends in the Moneda [meant here rather like the White House]; now enemies. With President Frei the elder (1966-70) we had friends; Allende (1970-73) very good friends; Pinochet (1973-1989), in spite of all, friends; Aylwin (1990-94), friends; With Frei the younger ('94-'00) they developed us; with Lagos (2000 -), we are going backwards.

Q. What is happening?

A. They are not opening new doors for us. They are mocking us. They say yes and that means no. Rapa Nui should have direct contact with the President. The Special Commission for Isla de Pascua should be reactivated; Aylwin created it and Frei strengthened it. The Assistant Minister of the Interior, Belisario Velasco, was an honorary member of the Consejo de Ancianos and our friend. But afterwards with Burgos... For me Burgos is a "panzer"...like those German tanks in World War II. And remember the takeover of LanChile in 1990. They sent an Air Force plane with the panzer, full of special forces to beat us up. All the island stood together: continentals, English, Americans, Rapanui, all. This was because LanChile increased the cost of transporting islanders by more than 100%.

Q. And how is your relation with President Lagos?

A. Well, I wish to say that he is a liar. In November I went to see him. I greeted him cordially because I respected him. He is intelligent, worthy. I told him I was worried about the future of the government and the island. He promised in front of Minister Garcia to send someone to work with us to make a proposal. Nothing has happened. I have asked for an audience with him five times !! And he hasn't given me one. So for me, this man is a liar.

Q. Mayor, that is an insult.

A. Let them take me to prison. I speak the truth. He has to do what he promised. When he went to the APEC meeting, he passed through here at six in the morning. I waited for him at the airport. We had a big breakfast ready for him and he never got off the plane. They wouldn't even let me go on board to greet him. Five hours to arrive here, and not five minutes to say hello to the mayor? Even though we have few votes, he should respect us.

Q. Which is to say your relation with the government has been cut.

A. To nothing. Even with our region of Valparaíso. It is more difficult to speak with the Intendente Allard than to talk with Bush. Impossible.

Q. How do you explain all this?

A. I believe that, for the government, Isla de Pascua is a joke. Why is it that when I say I wish that we become a region, they say it is impossible? The program of development for the regions excludes us!

Q. The Governor is Rapanui.

A. But today I would prefer that the governor be a continental to squeeze the neck when we have problems. You can't squeeze the neck when on one side is your brother and on the other an indifferent government.

Q. What administrative organization would you like?

A. That the island be like a region that depends directly on the Executive and not the V Region [Valparaíso]...that it has resources assigned directly to the island; that the Governor has attributes similar to an *intendente* so that he can manage the proposals of health and education here. All comes from Valparaíso and it is a physical and emotional effort to go and fight, but return empty handed. The only thing I ask is that they let us be, that we do not continue waiting for decisions that are made 4000 km distant. The Chilean municipalities are autonomous to a certain degree, but the island depends absolutely on the common municipal fund. The "Ley Pascua" (from the 60s) does not permit us to collect taxes of any kind. Nor auto registrations, nor taxes of companies. Here no one pays taxes...

Q. So it is a paradise...

A. Sure, for the contributors, but not for the municipality. There are more than 80 businesses on the island and none pay taxes. The Ley Pascua should be changed. Much money comes in by tourism and we would be able to tax it and add to the coffers of the municipality one and a half million dollars more for restoration work, upkeep of roads, bettering education and health. With respect to archaeological sites, recently, in my period as mayor, the government invested in archaeology. And today they have cut off the programs. We depend on friends. For example, the Japanese gave money to repair monuments. Kodak gives scholarships to students, and recently they gave us a park with children's toys. Japan donated US\$500,000 in 1995 and 1996 for conservation of archaeological sites via UNESCO with participation of government groups like CONAF, the Consejo de Monumentos, the University of Chile and Universidad Católica. And these groups divided up the money and nothing was left for the island. I complained and they said that they would give us US\$74,000 via the government. I opposed it. I said that all the money is for preservation and they gave us nothing. And so far they have not been able to invest the money donated in the name of Isla de Pascua.

Q. Has it helped to be a World Heritage Site?

A. No way. A little for the elaboration of the master plan for education; but for archaeology, nothing.

Q. You said that low class types have arrived in an Air Force FACH plane...

A. Continentals come from marginal backgrounds, looking for opportunities, for friendships, from what I know. FACH says that the government sent a passenger list. It isn't certain.

Q. You're saying that FACH lied?

A. They are liars. The plane – and I don't mean the medical operation – has a capacity of 150; 120 are decided by the government, usually students, the other 30? Who are they?

Q. *What is the solution?* A. There should be a control over the continentals and foreigners that come to the island. They come and go. They cannot stay here; if we accept them, there would be chaos. It's a small island. In my opinion, there should be no more FACH operations, but the Health Service has to change its very poor attention to the island.

Edmunds' outspokenness has not made him any friends in high places. However, local islanders say that Edmunds' comments are what almost everyone knows and believes already: that government really doesn't care about the island. Islanders insist that the mayor's comments are what anyone in the street would say if asked.

THE CAMARA DE TURISMO AND CONAF have a project to install information centers at Rano Raraku, 'Anakena, 'Orongo, and Tahai. These kiosks would include drinks and snacks, leaflets, and informational material. There will be first aid and radios to the village, and they will have improved bathrooms. The center planned for Tahai will be the largest as it is closest to the village. Another project that involves a Chilean-Canadian group named Villafranca will organize trails and security systems for the archaeological sites; they are working closely with the Association of Guides.

A SKELETON (specimen RHO235), excavated from the Northeast region of Easter Island (Mahatua Poe Poe), revealed clues to the epidemiology of syphilis, according to Xavier Bosch in *The Lancet*, Vol. 354 for December 11, 1999. Scientists have made the first definitive diagnosis of venereal syphilis in a skeletal specimen. "Molecular determination of historical disease states by use of skeletal material can significantly enhance our understanding of the pathology and spread of infectious diseases", stated Connie Kolman (Smithsonian Center for Materials Research and Education, Suitland, MD) and co-workers. The 200-year-old skeleton, identified as a female, 36-42 years of age by George Gill and his associates, had abnormal skeletal lesions including anterior curvature and subperiosteal thickening of the diaphyses of both tibia, also called "saber shins". These are indicative of treponemal infection. Bone collagen, the organic component of bone, was dated by accelerator mass spectrometry radiocarbon measurement that produced an un-calibrated age of 240 +/- 50 years before present (1710-1810 AD).

J. Infect. Dis. 1999; 180:2060-63.

UPCOMING RESEARCH PROJECT: DOCUMENTATION OF THE PREHISTORIC EASTER ISLANDER'S CRANIOLOGY

Vincent H. Stefan

AS PART OF A CONTINUED EFFORT to investigate the origins and evolution of the prehistoric Rapanui and to fully document the museum collections of prehistoric Rapanui skeletal material, Dr Vincent H. Stefan (Department of Anthropology, Lehman College – CUNY, Bronx, New York) will be conducting a research trip to inventory and collect data from Rapanui crania curated at the Museo Antropológico Padre Sebastián Englert, Rapa Nui;

Museo Histórico Nacional, formerly M. de Etnología y Antropología and Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, Santiago, Chile; Museo de Concepción and Instituto de Biología de la Universidad, Concepción, Chile. The data collected from this project will be combined with the previously collected data and analyzed, with the results shedding light on the range of variation present in the various museum samples and the prehistoric Rapanui as a population, the origins and evolution of Rapanui, and assist in resolving the controversies surrounding the possible role South American populations may have played in the prehistory of Rapa Nui and Polynesia.

Dr Stefan will conduct his research in January 2002. His research trip will be funded by a Easter Island Foundation research grant (\$2,500.00) and a PSC/CUNY Research Award 31 grant (\$4,300.00), awarded by The City University of New York, University Committee on Research Awards.

CONSERVATION TREATMENT OF THE FONCK MUSEUM MOAI

THE FRANCISCO FONCK SOCIETY of Archaeology and History, today a Corporation, was founded in 1937. In 1951 a *moai* was brought from Easter Island. It is said that this came about as an agreement between the then President of Chile, don Gabriel Gonzalez Videla, the Consejo of Monumentos Nacionales and the Consejo de Ancianos de Rapa Nui. It was installed on a concrete base in a beautiful little park near the ocean. However, with the passage of years, this place was transformed into a major route of vehicular traffic that put its integrity into danger and made it difficult to admire.

Thus, in 1988 it was moved to the garden in front of the Fonck Museum. Here it stands in a beautiful atmosphere, free from danger. Both national and international visitors who are unable to go to the island continually admire it. At the same time it is part of the great collection of Easter Island artifacts that are kept and exhibited by the Fonck Museum.

The *moai* was sculpted from volcanic tuff from Rano Raraku and it is the only *moai* in the world that is permanently in public view. It was, however, beginning to show many microfissures and superficial erosion indicating deterioration. It was noted that there was a loss of small pieces by action of vandals or by simple curiosity of people wanting to touch it. One must remember that thousands of people every year arrive to admire it and feel its "mana". Thus it became necessary to protect it, and for this reason Sra Mónica Báhamondez, of the Centro Nacional de Conservación y Restauración was called in to make a diagnosis and treatment. She is a specialist with much international experience in the area of conservation of volcanic tuff.

Tuff is composed of volcanic ash, a cemented material of a glassy matrix of silicates. Permanent exposure to rain water over several hundred years produced a slow dissolution of the matrix, thus disintegrating the tuff. The treatment consisted first in applying a consolidating product that reinforced the glassy matrix. After two months, an application of a product with a special silicon base that produced hydro-repellency was made. This keeps out the rainwater but permits the free circulation of water vapor. Next, a strong epoxy resin was injected, penetrating each of the fissures and cracks. This consolidates and avoids

the possible loss of small pieces of stone. Finally, a cleaning was carried out to eliminate the dirt that had accumulated over the years when the *moai* was exposed to traffic. During the entire process the *moai* remained under a plastic tarp. The present good state of conservation should last at least 15 years, and the process then should be repeated.

The Fonck Museum has a project of remodeling the three halls dedicated to Easter Island. This remodel will permit the exposition of the 1,400 items that the museum possesses in a modern museum site. To better protect the *moai*, we hope to place it inside the museum.

The Corporacion Museo Fonck wishes to publicly thank the Easter Island Foundation and Dr. William Liller and his wife for their donations of money that permitted this costly conservation treatment of the *moai* from Ahu One Mahiki.

*Maururu, Dr Claudio Etcheverry P, President, and
Dr Adolfo Fernandez C., Vice President*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEAR EDITOR,

[Enclosed is] a photocopy of a postcard which has the same image as the photograph of the shipwrecked crew of the *El Dorado* (it would have been good if it had been a different image) [See *RNJ* 15(1):36]. I bought this card at a postcard fair a year or so ago. It was an expensive card but I took a leap of faith and bought it, as, written on the back in pencil, it said "wrecked off Easter Island". None of the books in my Easter Island collection mentioned the *El Dorado* and I put the card away in a drawer and forgot about it, until reading the journal last night I find the entire fascinating story. I'm glad I bought the card. Unfortunately it is not used so there is no definite date [on the card], and no publisher's name but the instructions are in English. I would say that from the sepia tone and the "This space for Correspondence" it is likely to be roughly contemporaneous with 1914/15 or so. The fact that there were postcards probably indicate that the story was well known at the time. This has spurred me and I will try to do some more research.

Best wishes and keep up the good work.

David Maddock, Hants, UK

Thanks, David, for a fascinating follow-up on the ill-fated *El Dorado*. It is assumed that Captain Benson went on the lecture circuit after he returned (at least we know that he intended to do so, and thus took his lifeboat with him on his return from Tahiti). He likely used the lectures as opportunities to sell his book, and had the postcards printed as further items to sell to his audiences. There must be more postcards out there somewhere. Katherine Routledge mentions the wreck of the *El Dorado* in her book, *The Mystery of Easter Island* (p.126-7). Percy Edmunds commented to Routledge that Captain Benson "had been a whaler in his day." Ed.



DEAR EDITOR,

Last Monday I received 15(1) of *Rapa Nui Journal*. The *Journal* has become an impressive publication, but then it was

before as well. This is particularly so for the article I just read. I feel it has given me inspiration. This is the short paper by Riet Delsing "Pacific Voyaging: A Subjugated Knowledge."

I cannot truly express my feelings about this presentation. It puts into words many of my thoughts about what I have called the Nusantara Maritime Trading and Communication Network. Many archaeologists and prehistorians have considered my ideas and concept of the Nusantara as total nonsense. I have had two different feelings about this, one that I have been unable to explain my concepts of the Nusantara and the evolution of these concepts and the other that the critics are right, it is total nonsense. As time goes on, I feel more and more that my first expressed feeling is correct.

I have attempted to present the evolution of my thoughts and concepts on the Nusantara in an article that is presumably coming out this month in the proceedings of a small symposium that was held in Finland last November. This conference was organized by Clifford Sather (csather@jeas.unimas.my) with the water people of Borneo as its subject. I was not able to participate in this conference but Cliff very kindly asked me to contribute a paper explaining my hypothesis of the Nusantara Maritime Network. I was willing to do this, as over the last year I have been feeling more confident that my ideas on this subject are not nonsense.

I include here my latest definition of the Nusantara Maritime Trade and Communications Network (Solheim, n.d.):

I have defined, redefined and discussed several times the Nusantara Maritime Trade and Communications Network (1975a-b, 1976, 1981a, 1984-1985, 1992, 1996, 1997, 2000). Amongst other things I added "Communication" to the title (Solheim 1994). Also, I originally referred to the people as the Nusantara and included many different varieties of maritime orientation as defining these people. When I use the title "Nusantao Maritime Trade and Communication Network" I am referring only to a portion of the Nusantara people, i.e., those involved in maritime trade. There are no clear boundaries between the many different maritime orientations of these people as some of them often change for a time from one orientation to another and at times are involved in two or more of these orientations. As an example, a common situation is men being away from their homes for several months fishing, and then trading the dried or smoked fish for money or other materials, but their spouses and children remain at home and tend to the farming. Always the maritime part of this is the unifying element of "Nusantao."

I would like to add here that the "Nusantao people" who are not maritime traders were and are descended from the people of the Nusantara Maritime Trade and Communication Network" who were and are active traders and these Nusantara people were and are still very maritime oriented.

The origin of my thoughts on the Nusantara Maritime Trade and Communication Network began through my development of the concept of the Sa Huynh-Kalanay Pottery Tradition. This concept has been questioned by many as being so loose and all-encompassing that it has no meaning. I was therefore delighted last year to receive a copy of an honors thesis by Ambika Flavel for the Bachelor of Science Degree with the Centre for Archaeology of the University of Western